United Nations A/C.5/63/SR.50

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 50th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 2 June 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*)

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09-35631 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad *(continued)* (A/63/565, A/63/746/Add.13 and A/63/817)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/565), said that the approved budget for that period had amounted to $182.4 million and expenditures to $165.2 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $17.3 million, which represented a utilization rate of 90.5 per cent. Resource requirements had decreased mainly because of the delayed deployment of the Mission's air assets, military liaison officers and United Nations police officers, and the delayed recruitment of civilian personnel. The unspent balance had been offset by increased requirements for the upgrading of airport infrastructure in N'Djamena and Abéché and higher expenditure with respect to freight and related costs.

2. The General Assembly was requested to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $17,260,300 with respect to the period from 1 July to 30 June 2008 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008, amounting to $1,387,000 from interest income and from the cancellation of prior-period obligations.

3. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for MINURCAT for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/817), he said that the Secretary-General had been authorized to enter into commitments for the Mission's expansion for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in an amount not exceeding $139,671,300, in addition to the amount of $310,124,200 already approved. For the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, the proposed budget amounted to $768,190,100, representing a 74.3 per cent increase over the approved resources for the 2008/09 period. Increases in resource requirements were due mainly to the projected phased deployment by 30 June 2010 of 5,183 military contingent personnel, the full deployment of 30 aircraft approved for the 2008/09 period, the phased deployment of an additional seven helicopters, infrastructure construction and a greater demand for generator fuel. Those increases had been partly offset by reduced provisions for the acquisition of prefabricated facilities, budgeted for in the 2008/09 period.

4. The General Assembly was requested to appropriate the amount of $768,190,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, to assess the amount of $543,102,135 at a monthly rate of $64,015,841 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 15 March 2010, and to further assess the amount of $225,087,965 at the same monthly rate for the period from 16 March to 30 June 2010, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

5. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/746/Add.13), said that the significant expansion of MINURCAT proposed by the Secretary-General might not be entirely achievable during the 2009/10 period. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended reductions under a number of budget lines for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, for a total amount of $128,465,900. With regard to resource requirements for military and civilian personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended the application of a 40 per cent delayed deployment factor to the cost estimates for military contingents; approval of the 35 new posts for civilian personnel proposed under components 1 and 2; and approval of 25 per cent of the new international posts, 50 per cent of the new national posts and 50 per cent of the new United Nations volunteer posts proposed under component 3. It further recommended that a detailed staffing review, conducted on the basis of operational requirements, should be carried out and the findings presented in the context of the next budget submission.

6. The Advisory Committee recommended against approval of the proposed upgrading of 15 posts under the support component. Given the high vacancy rate and the evolving support concept, it considered the majority of the upgrades to be premature. However, in view of the significant expansion of the Mission, it recommended approval of the upgrading of the post of Chief of Mission Support (D-1) to Director level (D-2).

7. As for the proposed increases in the provision for facilities and infrastructure, in the light of its recommendations on the levels of military and civilian personnel and bearing in mind both the underutilization of resources during the 2008/09 period and the

uncertainty surrounding the procurement of contractual services for the 2009/10 period, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $40 million. For similar reasons, it recommended a reduction of 30 per cent in the provision for ground transportation and a reduction of $25 million in the requirements for air transportation for the 2009/10 period. It urged the Mission to ensure that its fuel farms were operational as soon as possible to avoid a repeat of the supply shortage and recommended that the average fuel cost for the period from January to March 2009 should be used as the basis for estimating fuel requirements during the 2009/10 period, since that would entail a $11.9 million reduction in the proposed budget. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of MINURCAT beyond 15 March 2010, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $639,724,200 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/63/SR.51

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 51st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 3 June 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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09-35773 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/63/563, A/63/746/Add.16 and A/63/806)

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (A/63/569, A/63/746/Add.14 and A/63/803 and Corr.1)

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/63/608, A/63/746/Add.15 and A/63/757)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/563), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $1,112,739,500 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $1,071,488,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $41,250,700, which represented an implementation rate of 96.3 per cent. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements under military observers, United Nations police, air transportation and facilities and infrastructure, partially offset by additional requirements under national staff, United Nations Volunteers and ground transportation. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $41,250,700 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $28,723,800.

2. The proposed budget of $1,423,169,600 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/806) reflected a 19.8 per cent increase relative to the funding of $1,187,676,400 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2008/09. The main causes of the variance were a temporary increase of authorized military strength, resulting in additional requirements for the reimbursement of contributing Governments for personnel and equipment costs, rations and travel costs; additional requirements for international and national staff; increased requirements for the acquisition of various types of equipment and services under facilities and infrastructure; deployment of additional aircraft; replacement of vehicles and acquisition of additional vehicles; and increased requirements under other supplies, services and equipment. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $1,423,169,600 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess the amount of $711,584,800 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 and the further amount of $711,584,800 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010, at a monthly rate of $118,597,467, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

3. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/569), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $220,476,400 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $220,466,600, leaving an unencumbered balance of $9,800, which represented near full utilization of the approved resources. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for military liaison officers, international staff, national staff and general temporary assistance, partially offset by reduced requirements with respect to special police personnel, facilities maintenance, commercial communications and maintenance of communications equipment. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $9,800 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $5,403,900.

4. The proposed budget of $47,082,000 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/803) reflected a 76.2 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $198,012,000 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2008/09. The main causes of the variance were the reconfiguration of UNMIK, including a substantial drawdown of Mission personnel; lower generator and vehicle fuel requirements; and the discontinuation of commercial helicopter services. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate and assess the amount of $47,082,000 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

5. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/608), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $46,075,800 for the maintenance of the Mission and

that expenditure had amounted to $45,520,300, leaving an unencumbered balance of $555,500, which represented an implementation rate of 98.8 per cent. The main causes of the variance were reduced expenditure under facilities and infrastructure and air transportation. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $555,500 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $1,167,900.

6. The proposed budget of $54,358,300 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/757) reflected a 19.2 per cent increase relative to the funding of $45,600,800 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2008/09. The main causes of the variance were additional requirements under international staff and facilities and infrastructure; the replacement of 67 vehicles that had reached the replacement requirement of five years or older; and the proposed acquisition of additional satellite equipment. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $54,358,300 to maintain the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $4,529,858, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

7. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MONUC (A/63/746/Add.16), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which included the application of a higher delayed deployment factor for military and police personnel, a higher vacancy rate for international staff and a reduction of $50 million in operating costs, would entail an overall reduction of $66,818,200 in the Mission's budget.

8. One of the major factors affecting the budget for 2008/09 had been the planned provision of support by MONUC to direct local elections. Given that those elections were now expected to take place in the first trimester of 2010, the Mission would have to shift its focus for 2009/10 from post-electoral activities to supporting preparatory electoral activities and the conduct of elections, for which, however, no provision had been made in the proposed budget. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Mission intended to use proposed staffing resources to support such activities and would submit a revised budget once the dates of the elections, and related requirements, were known. Consequently, the Advisory Committee had not commented on the election-related resource requirements set out in the Secretary-General's report (A/63/806). It recommended that revised estimates of staffing and operational costs related to the provision of support to local elections in 2009/10 should be submitted to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, and that information on the use of resources currently included in the budget for 2009/10 should also be provided.

9. It had become clear only after extensive questioning that the elections had not taken place as planned during the 2008/09 period and that, consequently, the assumptions on which the proposed budget was based did not accurately reflect the activities envisaged. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee had learned that a significant portion of the resources allocated for electoral assistance for 2008/09 had not been utilized for that purpose but had been redirected towards the Mission's mandated refocus on the eastern part of the country. That information, which was directly relevant to the resource requirements for 2009/10, should have been provided to the Advisory Committee at the outset of its discussions on those requirements; an addendum to the Secretary-General's report (A/63/806) should also have been issued. Because of time pressures, the Advisory Committee had not been able to wait for such documentation to be issued. It hoped that lessons learned would be used to improve planning and execution of the budget process so that such situations could be avoided in future.

10. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIK (A/63/746/Add.14), she said that the Advisory Committee had been informed, upon enquiry, that the resources proposed by the Secretary-General were adequate to fulfil the Mission's mandate for 2009/10. It therefore recommended approval of the proposed budget, with the exception of $37,800 under operational costs; that small reduction related to the average used for calculating fuel requirements. The Advisory Committee also recommended that information on income received from cost-sharing arrangements should be included in future budgets.

11. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MINURSO (A/63/746/Add.15), she said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail an overall reduction of $311,700 in the proposed budget for 2009/10, corresponding to

reductions under civilian personnel and the calculation of estimated fuel requirements for 2009/10 on the basis of the average fuel cost for the first three months of 2009.

12. Although MINURSO was a long-standing peacekeeping operation, with no recent change in mandate, the estimated operational requirements for 2009/10 had risen by almost 26 per cent compared with 2008/09. The Advisory Committee encouraged the Mission to use its resources prudently and to increase its operational efficiency with a view to possible savings.

13. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States on agenda item 136, said that the agreement signed between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP) on 23 March 2009 was an important development for the country. Among other matters, the agreement provided for the transformation of CNDP into a political party and the establishment of local and national reconciliation mechanisms.

14. The Group believed that United Nations support for the security and stabilization of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo was central to extending basic state authority through a combination of military, political, development and humanitarian initiatives. MONUC could fulfil its mandate only if it was provided with sufficient resources to do so. In that connection, the Group was concerned that the budget cuts recommended by the Advisory Committee could hinder the Mission's effective functioning.

15. The Group welcomed the Mission's intention to continue promoting the use of the Entebbe logistics hub as a shared resource for other United Nations operations in the region and encouraged its further enhancement as the most logical facility for the support of peacekeeping operations in Africa.

16. **Mr. Starčević** (Serbia), speaking on agenda item 142, said that Serbia was deeply concerned at the scale of the proposed reduction in UNMIK funds and personnel, which went beyond what had been welcomed by the Security Council and therefore contravened Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). In particular it was unacceptable that the so-called "Kosovo Constitution", born out of the unilateral declaration of independence by the ethnic-Albanian authorities of Serbia's southern province, was presented as the basis for the reduction, thereby contradicting the status-neutral position of UNMIK.

17. He was also concerned that the budget proposal allocated funds only to residual functions in the vital rule of law area. The Security Council had never endorsed the wholesale transfer of rule of law functions from UNMIK to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) or agreed to the total disbandment of the UNMIK rule of law component. Furthermore, the Secretary-General's report of 24 November 2008 on UNMIK (S/2008/692), which also underlined that the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement (S/2007/168/Add.1) had not been endorsed by the Security Council, referred only to an enhanced operational role for EULEX in the rule of law area. In that connection, the new Police and Justice Liaison Office should not only perform UNMIK residual functions but should also serve as the focal point for an active, two-way process of cooperation with EULEX.

18. It was of vital importance that the Mission should have a field presence not only in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica, but also south of the Ibar river, where almost 60 per cent of the remaining Serb population lived. The proposed establishment of an Office for Community Support and Facilitation partially met his Government's concerns about the safety of the Serb community and its important cultural heritage sites.

19. In view of the need for coordination and cooperation between UNMIK and EULEX, a post of Coordinator for EULEX at the D-2 level, and three Professional posts in the three core EULEX functions should be established in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. That could be achieved through a redistribution of allocated resources, without necessarily entailing budgetary implications. At least three new Legal Officer posts should also be established for the Human Rights Advisory Panel, in addition to those proposed by the Secretary-General, considering the scope of the work still before the Panel. Furthermore, specific budget allocations should be made for the full implementation of the provisions of the Secretary-General's report (S/2008/692) and for various targeted campaigns. Since, pursuant to the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo, all laws adopted by the Kosovo Assembly must be promulgated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, it would also be appropriate to establish additional

Legal Officer posts in the Office of Legal Affairs, to analyse such legislation prior to its promulgation.

20. **Mr. Prokhorov** (Russian Federation), speaking on agenda item 142, said that the significant reductions in the staff and resources of UNMIK proposed for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 should be re-examined with a view to making corrections, as they failed to take due account of the actual situation in the province.

21. The proposals for a redistribution of responsibilities within the Mission, particularly the widening of the duties of the Chief of Staff to encompass assistance to the Special Representative in the implementation of issues of practical concern to both Pristina and Belgrade in six technical areas (police, courts, customs, transportation and infrastructure, boundaries and Serbian patrimony) were a matter of concern. He wondered whether that auxiliary role meant that members of the Office of the Chief of Staff would actually participate in dialogue on those technical matters, or rather fulfil a mentoring function. The primary accountability for contacts in connection with discussion of those technical issues should lie with the Special Representative and the Special Representative's Office. There was no point in establishing parallel or duplicate structures.

22. The proposed reorganization of the Mission did not sufficiently consider the need to support cooperation between UNMIK and EULEX, particularly in matters connected with police, customs and judicial authorities. In view of the proposed reinforcement of the Mission's Human Rights Advisory Panel and Office of Legal Affairs, it should be possible to envisage increasing staff in those areas. In that connection, the proposals made by the representative of Serbia deserved support.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations

A/C.5/63/SR.52

General Assembly

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Summary record of the 52nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 June 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

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09-35940 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 132: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
(A/63/626, A/63/824 and Corr.1)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (UNLB) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/626), said that expenditure for that period amounted to $40,201,500. The approved budget for the period amounted to $40,379,600, leading to an unencumbered balance of $178,100 and a utilization rate of 99.6 per cent. The decrease in resource requirements had resulted from lower expenditure on facilities, infrastructure and spare parts and had been partly offset by additional salary costs caused mainly by depreciation of the United States dollar against the euro.

2. The General Assembly was invited to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $178,100 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $3,031,700, and, in connection with the strategic deployment stocks, to take note of the Secretary-General's report.

3. The proposed budget of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/824 and Corr.1) was 49.2 per cent higher than the resources that had been approved for 2008/09, reflecting the strengthening and relocation to UNLB of the Standing Police Capacity; an increase in national staff; establishment of the secondary telecommunications facility in Valencia, Spain; and additional equipment and facilities related to the proposed increase in staffing. The additional resource requirements for national staff had been partly offset by lower requirements for general temporary assistance.

4. The General Assembly was invited to approve the amount of $68,284,300 for the maintenance of the Base from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to prorate that amount among the budgets of individual active peacekeeping operations.

5. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/746/Add.17), said that the report on the longer-term role and future development of UNLB, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/277 and contained in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/824), should be viewed in the context of the global support strategy for United Nations peacekeeping operations to be presented to the General Assembly within one year. While that strategy was awaited, the Advisory Committee recommended against approval of a number of the proposed staffing changes; the related reduction in the proposed budget for 2009/10 would amount to $9,888,100.

6. The Advisory Committee had noted that the proposed budget included a provision of $7.1 million for the implementation of various projects under the longer-term perspective. While some projects might be rescheduled until the global support strategy was available, postponement of others risked impairing the operation of the Base. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended the authorization of a provision of $6.1 million for the necessary construction works and electrical upgrades, reducing the provision originally proposed by $1 million and bringing the total reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee to $10,888,100.

7. **Ms. Krahulcová** (Czech Republic), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that all required documentation must be distributed on time and in all six official languages. That had not been the case with the Advisory Committee report on UNLB. The recent trend towards late issuance should be stopped, as it affected the quality and speed of the Committee's deliberations. The European Union wished to know what concrete steps would be taken to prevent any recurrence of that situation and appealed to the Chairman to collaborate closely with the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat in strictly observing General Assembly resolution 61/266, rule 51 of its rules of procedure and other linguistic provisions for the various United Nations bodies.

8. **The Chairman** said that he would continue to work with the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat to ensure the timely submission of documents in all official languages. The Advisory Committee had prepared its report on UNLB under exceptional time constraints.

Other matters

9. **Mr. Gürber** (Switzerland) said that his country's authorities and general public needed to understand

fully the legal bases relied on by the Secretary-General when assessing, retaining or returning Member States' contributions. His delegation wished to know the exact basis for the practice of retaining the cash balance available in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions. As the Secretary-General, in his report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions (A/63/581), had invited the General Assembly to approve retention of the cash balance in the accounts of 16 closed missions, his delegation also wished to know what action would be taken if approval was withheld. It assumed that the Secretary-General would administer the accounts concerned in accordance with the Organization's Financial Regulations and Rules. If the Organization's accounting policies were properly transparent, the Secretariat should be able to respond to his delegation's questions without having to consult the Office of Legal Affairs for an opinion.

10. His delegation had not yet received a satisfactory response to its question regarding the amount that each Member State would receive if the cash balance of the 16 closed peacekeeping missions were to be returned. It wished the Secretariat to provide written responses to all its concerns within 24 hours so that the Committee could pursue a decision by consensus on the basis of sound information and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Organization.

11. **Ms. Krahulcová** (Czech Republic), speaking on behalf of the European Union, supported the request made by the representative of Switzerland.

12. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the current absence of consensus on the recurrent issue of the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions should not be allowed to deprive active missions of the resources they required to discharge their mandates effectively. He appealed for logical and balanced debate that did not focus exclusively on the Organization's rules and regulations.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/63/SR.53

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Summary record of the 53rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 5 June 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Other matters

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09-36105 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 157: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) *(continued)* (A/63/867 and A/63/874)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 (A/63/867), said that, following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1872 (2009), the Secretary-General had submitted a request for commitment authority, with assessment, to continue providing support to AMISOM. The full budget for 2009/10 would be submitted to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/275 had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to $77,790,900, to be assessed on the Member States, in order to support AMISOM for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009. For the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009, the Secretary-General was requesting further resources to support AMISOM, providing for military and police personnel, international and national staff, acquisition of equipment and operational requirements. The General Assembly was accordingly invited to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $185,673,700 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 and to assess that amount for that same period.

3. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/874) said that the Secretary-General's request for a commitment authority, with assessment, had been made pending submission of the proposed budget for the support of AMISOM for 2009/10. The Advisory Committee therefore expected that the proposed budget for that period, including a detailed description of actual expenditure incurred in 2008/09, would be prepared as a matter of priority and submitted to the General Assembly for action early in the main part of its sixty-fourth session.

4. Bearing in mind that expectation, its recommendations and the previous decision of the General Assembly regarding resources for the support of AMISOM, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 in the amount of $124,000,000 and that it should approve assessment of that amount for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009. That recommendation to authorize commitments in no way prejudged the Advisory Committee's potential position on the structure, number and level of posts or on other resources for support to AMISOM or a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

5. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the African Group, agreed with the Secretary-General that AMISOM would be unable to establish effective peacekeeping operations without support from the United Nations and donors. It was therefore crucial to authorize the request for resources and deliver the assistance package in a timely manner. Doing so would help AMISOM deploy the personnel it needed to carry out its mandate and lay the groundwork for a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

Agenda item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 *(continued)*

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued) (A/63/346/Add.7 and A/63/868)

6. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revised budget for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) (A/63/346/Add.7), said that the revision in question had been undertaken in response to the request made by the General Assembly in section IV of its resolution 63/268.

7. Although a revised UNPOS budget for 2009 had originally been submitted to the General Assembly for consideration during the first part of its resumed sixty-third session (A/63/346/Add.6, sect. C), it had not been possible to reflect the impact of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) in that proposal. The Assembly had therefore requested the Secretary-General to submit a revised budget proposal for consideration during the second part of its resumed sixty-third session.

8. Taking into account the amounts already appropriated pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 62/238, 62/245 and 63/263, as well as actual expenditure incurred in 2008, the net additional appropriation for 2009 amounted to $9,362,700 under section 3, Political affairs, and $983,200 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

9. The General Assembly was invited to approve the proposed revised budget for UNPOS for 2009 in the amount of $16,004,100 net; to take note of the balance of $6,641,400 estimated to remain available under the appropriation for UNPOS for the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of actual expenditure incurred in 2008 and to appropriate in conformity with General Assembly resolution 41/213 the additional resources required for 2009.

10. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/868), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $808,800 in the proposed revised UNPOS budget for 2009. In making those recommendations, the Advisory Committee had been guided particularly by the need to fulfil the request made by the Security Council in its resolution 1872 (2009) to deploy elements of UNPOS and other offices to Mogadishu, and the ability of UNPOS to perform its activities in its current and future locations, on the basis of recent experience. Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General was expected to submit the resource requirements for special political missions, including UNPOS, to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session, in accordance with the request made in section XI of resolution 63/263, the Advisory Committee recommended that the phased deployment factor for the new positions proposed be increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

11. The Advisory Committee had found a lack of clarity in the respective role and responsibilities of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and UNPOS. It trusted that the Secretary-General, when submitting the resource requirements for UNPOS at the Assembly's sixty-fourth session, would provide information on coordination between UNPOS, UNSOA and the United Nations Development Programme aimed at streamlining operations and sharing information and costs.

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

12. **Mr. Råsbrant** (Sweden), speaking as the coordinator of the informal consultations on sub-item 144 (b), said the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on the text of a draft resolution.

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45, submitted by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

14. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution.

15. **The Chairman** said that action would be taken on the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

Other matters

16. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in response to the concerns expressed by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union at the Committee's fifty-second meeting on the subject of the late issuance of official documents, said that all the parties involved should review the planning and execution of their work. The aim should be to return to the process originally envisaged when the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/233 A, had altered the financing cycle for peacekeeping operations. Doing so would ensure that each party had sufficient time for proper consideration.

17. The problem of completing consideration of the financing of peacekeeping operations on schedule must be confronted and resolved before the start of the next budgetary cycle. The Advisory Committee required all peacekeeping financing for its consideration of the documentation to be available by the time its peacekeeping session began in late January or early February of each year. In addition, meetings of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee should be synchronized to the greatest possible extent. The

Advisory Committee stood ready to work with the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat to overcome shared difficulties and to seek solutions rather than spending time assigning blame for a long-standing problem.

18. **Mr. Ruíz Massieu** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that his Group was still awaiting clarification from the Secretariat regarding concerns it had expressed at the forty-second meeting of the Fifth Committee in connection with the financing of conference support services for the Human Rights Council, and in particular for its universal periodic review mechanism. The continued uncertainty surrounding the matter should be resolved. It extended even to deciding under which agenda item to pursue discussions. If, as was reportedly the case, existing resources were insufficient to cover the translation into all the official languages of the 13 universal periodic review outcome reports due to be adopted in the Human Rights Council the following week, the Committee must find a solution.

19. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat had explained the situation regarding conference servicing support for the Human Rights Council, and had subsequently provided supplementary information. It would continue to provide assistance and information, whether the Committee chose to continue discussing the matter in the context of the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences or in connection with any other appropriate agenda item.

20. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, wondered whether the reports of the Advisory Committee concerning the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 would be made available sufficiently in advance of the start of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

21. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), said that although the deadline of 24 July 2009 for the completion of its reports was extremely challenging, the Advisory Committee would make every effort to complete its work on time.

22. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee should agree on a suitable course of action, given the likelihood that the Advisory Committee would be prevented from meeting its deadline by the very large volume of reports involved.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.